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ARTICLES TO BE ENQVIRED OF BY THE CHVRCH-WARDENS AND SWORNE-men within the Archdeaconrie of Exceſter in the viſitation of the Right Worſhipfull *Thomas Barret*, Archdeacon of the ſaid Archdeaconrie of EXCESTER.

Anno Domini.

1612.

LONDON

Printed by *William Stansby.*

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The tenor of the Oath miniſtred to *the Church-Wardens and ſworne-men.*

YEe ſhall ſweare, that vpon due conſideration of theſe Articles giuen you in charge, Yee ſhall preſent euerie ſuch perſon of or within your Pariſh, as you ſhall know to haue committed any offence, or omitted any dutie mentioned in any of theſe Articles, or which are vehemently ſuſpected, famed, or defamed of any ſuch offence, or negligence. So helpe you God, by the contents of his Holy Goſpell.

Articles to be enquired of within the *Archdeaconrie of Excester.*

Belonging to the Church.

FIrſt, whether your Church, or Chappell, with the Chancell thereof, and euerie part of eyther of them, be well and ſufficiently repaired?

2 Whether haue you in your Church or Chappell,

1 The booke of Common praier.
2 The Pſalmes.
3 The Bible in the largeſt volum.
4 The two tomes of Homilies.
5 The Paraphraſes of Eraſmus.
6 A table of the ten Commaundements.
7 The table of the degrees of Marriage prohibited.
8 A conuenient Pulpit.
9 A decent Communion Table.
10 A comely couering for it.
11 A faire linnen cloath to lay vpon it.
12 A Communion cup of ſiluer with a couer.
13 A conuenient ſeat for the Miniſter to read Seruice in.
14 A decent Font.
15 A comely Surpleſſe.
16 A cheſt or boxe for the Almes of the poore conueniently placed.
17 A Regiſter booke for Chriſtnings, Marriages, and Burials, kept in a Cheſt, hauing two lockes and keyes.

3 Whether is your Churchyard well fenced and cleanly kept, and whether hath there beene any trées felled thereout and for what vſe?

4 Whether hath there béene any fighting, [illegible]ng, brawling, or quarrelling in your Church or Churchyard, and by whom, or hath any interlude béene played in your Church, or wares ſold by chapmen in your Churchyard on the ſabbaoth and holydaies or otherwiſe?

5 Whether the manſion houſe of your Parſon or Vicar with all the buildings thereunto belonging be well and ſufficiently repayred are and maintayned?

6 Whether your Pariſh Almes houſe, and Church-houſe, if you haue any, be kept in ſufficient reparations, and to what vſes they imploy?

7 Whether are there belonging to your Church-houſe any implements and vtenſils, and in whoſe cuſtodie are they: and whether any haue beene ſold or alienated from their ancient vſe and by whom.

Articles to be enquired of, within

Touching the Miniſtrie.

1 WHether publike prayer be ſaid in your Church both Morning and Euening, euerie Sunday and holiday, diſtinctly reuerently, and in due time, and in ſuch order as is by the booke of common prayer preſcribed. And whether vpon Wedneſdaies and Fridaies not being holydaies, the Letany and other praiers are ſaid?

2 Whether hath your Parſon or Vicar preached, or cauſed to be preached the monthly and quarterly Sermons, by the Kings Iniunctions required. And whether hath there béene any admitted to preach or read any Lecture, or the diuine Seruice, not hauing licence?

3 Whether doth your Miniſter euery Sunday and Holyday when there is no Sermon, read diſtinctly and plainly ſome part of the Homilies, as by authority is preſcribed?

4 Whether is your Miniſter reſident vpon his benefice, if he be abſent, how long hath he béene ſo, and whom hath he placed to ſerue the Cure in his ſtead?

5 Whether doth your Miniſter vſually vpon the Sabbaoth or Holydaies, in the Church openly call for, heare, and inſtruct in the Catechiſme, the children and ſruants, which are of conuenient age within your Pariſh?

6 Whether is your Miniſter a Preacher, or contrariwiſe is hee a ſower of diſcord, a haunter of Tauernes, or Alehouſes, a common hunter, hawker, [illegible]er, carder, ſwearer, or dancer, or is ſuſpected to liue incontinently, or doth frequent any ſuſpected places, or giue euill example of life?

7 Whether doth your Miniſter vpon the Sunday, about the middeſt of diuine Seruice, openly ſignifie, what holy daies and faſting daies are to be obſerued the ſame weeke following?

8 Whether hath your Miniſter baptiſed any children, married any perſons, churched any woman, buried any dead, or adminiſtred the holy Communion in any other ſort then is preſcribed by the booke of common prayer, or hath he refuſed to reforme any of theſe duties according to the ſame?

9 Whether doth your Miniſter vſe to examine the Parrhioners, before they come to the holy Communion, to know whether they be fit to be admitted thereunto?

10 Whether hath your Miniſter admitted to the holy commu-

nion

nion, or into the Church any open and notorious euill liuer before penance done by appointment of the Ordinary?

11 Whether is your Minister diligent in visiting the sicke, & comforting them with the holy Scriptures, and doth he then moue such as bee of abilitie, especially when they make their testaments, to consider the necessitie of the poore, and to giue to their bare or chest, their charitable deuotion, or almes?

12 Whether doth your Minister quarterly read in the Church the Kings Iniunctions publikely, as is required?

13 Whether hath your Minister conferred with, and perswaded all persons within your Parish suspended or excommunicated, to submit themselues to the Ecclesiasticall censure, and to seeke their restitution from the Ordinary, and whether doth he vse it in the presence of one of the Churchwardens at the least?

14 Whether doth your Minister kéepe a note of all excommunicants in your Parish, and the first Sunda euery moneth about the middest of Morning prayer recite their names, and admonish the Churchwardens to remoue them out of the Church?

Cocerning Parishioners.

1 WHether haue you in your parish any dweller, or soiourner which is a fauourer to the Romish or forraine power a maintainer of popish doctrine, or any that haue said or heard Masse, or which haue in their Custody, any popish or schismaticall bookes, or are any way suspected to maintain heresies, errors, or false doctrine?

2 Whether there be any in your Parish that vse sorcery or witchcraft, or be vehemently suspected for the same, or that vse soothsaying, charmes, vnlawfull prayer, or inuocations, and whether any do resort to such for helpe and counsaile, and who be the offenders therein?

3 Whether your parishioners do diligently resort with their children and seruants to your parish Church on the sabboth day and holidaies, both morning and Euening, and there remaine the time of common prayer, preaching or reading of Homilies, catechising, and other seruice of God there vsed, reuerently and deuoutly hearing the same,

4 Whether haue you any common resorters vnto your Church which are not of your Parish, nor licensed by the Ordinary vsually to repaire thither, and what be their names that so resort, and of what Parishes are they?

5 Whether any of your Parish, while they are in the Church, in the time of diuine Seruice, vse to walke, or spend the time in talking, or whispering together, or doe sleepe in the Church, or haue their heads couered vndecently in the time of prayer, or doe make any noise or disturbance in the time of Seruice.

6 Whether any of your Parish absenting themselues from the Church, haue in the meane time vsed any gaming abroad, or sitting in the stréete, or Churchyard, or in any Tauerne or Alehouse, in the time of any part of diuine Seruice, or exercise of Religion, and by name in whose house.

Whether there be in your Parish any shops open, of any artificers and tradesmen, and buying and selling vsed by them vpon the Sundaies, and holydaies in the time of diuine Seruice.

8 Whether any of your parishioners do worke vpon Sundaies at any time of the day, or any Butchers kill any flesh on the Sunday, or any Millers set their Milles to worke on the Sabboth or holydaies, in the time of Seruice or Sermon, or whether any man hath gone with Cart, or occupied himselfe in worldly labours vpon those daies.

9 Whether there be any in your Parish that receiue the holy Communion in any other sort then kneeling, or doe there vse any vnséemely or vnreuerent behauiour.

10 Whether there by any of your Parish, or soiourning in your Parish, being of conuenient age, that haue not receiued the holy Communion thrice this last yeare at the least, and namely at Easter last, or thereabout for once.

11 Whether any young persons of your Parish haue contracted themselues, and married without the consent of their Parents, or gouernours.

12 Whether there be any in your Parish that be married within the degrées of consanguinitie forbidden, or that haue married two wiues, or two husbands both liuing, or are famed or suspected so to haue done: or whether any being diuorced or separated, yet doe notwithstanding cohabite and company together, or marry againe, the former wife or husband yet liuing.

13 Whether any couple being lawfully married, haue the one forsaken the other, of their owne wilkes, without authoritie of the Ordinary of the place, and doe liue a sunder, to the offence and euill example of others, and who do so offend?

5 Whe-

14 Whether there be in your Parish any adulterers, fornicators, incestuous persons, bawds, receiuers, or close fauorers of naughtie and incontinent persons, or such as harbor any woman with child vnmarried, or haue conueyed away the said woman, or suffered her to be conueyed, or to goe away, before that she hath made satisfaction to the congregation by order of the Ordinarie.

15 Whether there be in your Parish any blasphemers of the name of God, common swearers, or such as haue taken vp a custome of any vaine oath, and what be their names that so offend.

16 Whether are there any in your Parish, that are common drunkerds, or are common haunters of Tauernes or Alehouses, to the offending of others and euill example, & who are they that so offend.

17 Whether there be in your parish any malitious, contentious, or vncharitable persons, common slaunderers of their neighbors, raylers, scolders, or such as be sowers of discord betweene neighbors, and what are theyr names that offend therein?

18 Whether theyr are in your Parish, any that haue vncharitably contemned, or by any means in word or deed vnreuerently abused your Minister, & in what sort or manner the same was done, & by whom.

19 Whether any in your Parish giue the Churchwardens and Swornemen, or any of them euil words for doing theyr duty according to theyr oath, and conscience, in making presentment of any fault.

20 Whether do you know or haue heard say that within your parish there is any person that offendeth in letting mony to vsury, contrary to the lawes & rules of charity & christianity, and who offendeth therein.

21 Whether there be in your Parish that do administer theyr goods of the dead without any authoritie, and whether any suppresse the last will of the dead: or be there any Executors that haue not fulfilled their Testators will, especially in paying of legacies giuen to the Church, or to the reliefe of the poore, to Orphans, poore Scholles, poore Maidens marriages, high waies, Schooles and such like, and by whom they are so detained.

22 Whether any of your Parish doe see ay secret conuenticles, or haue any Preaching or Lectures in any priuate house, or either of the Sacraments administred, or any prayer there vsed, and what they be that offend.

23 Whether do any of your Parish refuse to pay, to the reparations of your Church, as they are seuerally sealled, at at a lawful vestry

or

or do any other which hold any land in your parish refuse to pay, which are not of your parish, and what be their names that so refuse to pay?

24 Whether any youth in your Parish, doe neglect to come to Church to be catechised, hauing had notice of the daies and times appointed for them by your Minister, and what be the names of such youth, and of their gouernours?

25 Whether any person suspended or excommunicated, be suffered to heare diuine seruice, or the Sermon, to receiue the Sacrament, to be married, churched, or buried in Christian buriall, or to be partaker of any of the rites or benefits of the Church?

26 Whether any woman knowne or suspected to be vnlawfully begotten with child, haue béene married, or churched in your Parish, before she and the partie with her offending haue béene ordered for their offence by the Ordinary?

27 Whether any haue béene married without banes thrise publikely asked vpon three seuerall sabboth or festiuall daies, in time of diuine Seruice, or haue any béene married in the time of Lent, or within the other times wherein marriage is by law restrained, or in any other place, then in the Church without sufficient licence?

28 Whether haue any of your Parish béene Christned, married, Churched, or buried out of your Parish, or haue any receiued the communion out of the same?

29 Whether hath the Perambulation of the circuite of your Parish, béene obserued once euery yeare or not, according to the kings Maiesties Iniunctions.

30 Whether haue all women in your Parish that haue béene deliuered of child, come at conuenient time after to the Church to giue thanks, and whether haue they béene churched according to the forme in the booke of common prayer?

31 Whether any in your parish refuse to be examined by your Minister how he is prepared before he commeth to receiue the communion?

32 Whether haue you in your Parish any Schoolemasters, and whether do they together with their Schollers frequent your Parish Church on the sabbaoth and holydaies, do they giue any offence or euill example of life, and whether are they licensed to teach.

33 Whether is your Parish Clarke dutifull and seruiceable to your Minister, doth he read plainly and distinctly, doth he liue soberly and honestly as becommeth him.

34 Whether

34 Whether doth your Clarke or Sexten kéepe your Church cleane, and whether doth he kéepe the doores thereof safely locked, or is there by his default any thing lost or spoyled in the Church, or doth suffer vnreasonable ringing, or any prophane exercise in your Church, or doth liue offensiuely amongst you?

35 Whether haue you any in your Parish, which practise Phisicke or Surgery, and whether are they licenced by the Ordinarie or not?

Of Churchwardens and Swornemen.

1 WHether the Churchwardens of the last yeare haue giuen to your Parish a iust account of the Church goods and rents, together with the Collections, Sealments, and Summes of money committed to their charge, according to the ancient custome of the Parish, and whether they haue disposed the Church goods: and laid forth the Church money to the profit of the Church or no?

2 Whether all Churchwardens and swornemen of your Parish, doe at the end of euerie quarter méete and conferre about the answering of these Articles, and who hath after intelligence giuen to the time and place of méeting, negligently or carelesly absented himselfe?

3 Whether forfeiture of twelue pence for absence from Church, appointed by a statute to be taken to the vse of the poore, be leuied, takin and imployd, according to the same statute, by the Churchwardens of your Parish, of euery person that offendeth?

4 Whether the said forfeiture be inspeciall, leuied and taken of such as wilfully stand suspended or excommunicated, & so are absent from the Church, for euery day that they so do, according to the statute?

5 Whether the Churchwardens and swornemen of your Parish do diligently confer with your Minister at Easter & Michaelmas yérely, and giue in their presentments to master Archdeacon or his Officiall, for intelligence of those things which by his helpe and information, they may the more truly & directly present according to these articles?

6 Whether doe you the Churchwardens, Constables or Officers dually about the midst of diuine seruice walke forth of the Church, and sée who are in any Alehouse, or other house, or abroad elsewhere absent, or euil imployed, in the time of common Prayer or the Sermon, & haue presented to the Ordinarie all such as you shall finde so to offend?

7 Whether do you the Churchwardens kéepe a true Inuentorie of all the ornaments, goods, rents, lands, and leases of the Church,

as also an Inuentorie of all the implements, and vtensiles of your Church house, and whether do you deliuer the same together with your accounts to the Churchwardens which do succéd you?

8 Whether if any more be giuen to your Church, or Church-house, then are entred into the said Inuentorie, and if any be lost, sould, or detained, haue you presented the same to the Ordinarie?

9 Whether haue you the Churchwardens, or one of you at the least, béene present with your Minister, and haue heard him conferre with, and perswade euerie person standing wilfully suspended, or excommunicated within your Parish to submit themselues to their Ordinaries.

10 Whether do you know of any offence committed, or dutie omitted, by any of your Parish before your time, and heretofore presented to the Ordinarie, or as yet not reformed, and you shall present the same?

11 Finally, whether you know or vnderstand of any matter or cause being a breach to his Maiesties Iniunctions of Canons and Lawes Ecclesiasticall hére not expressed, and you shall present them?

Certaine directions and orders giuen to the Ministers.

IN PRIMIS, It is inioyned to the Ministers of this Archdeaconrie, that euerie of them, for the better procéding in Catechising of the youth of his Parish, shall take a note in writing of the names of all such youth, of both sexes, as are of sufficient age to be catechised, and shall assigne them their seuerall daies and times on the Sabbaoth and holy daies, to come to the Church to be instructed in the Catechisme, set downe in the booke of common Prayer, with the additions of late set forth by authoritie, and if any of the said youth shall neglect so to do, that then the ministers shall deliuer the names of such youth, with the names of their parents or gouernours, to the Churchwardens to be presented in their quarter billes.

2 It is enioyned to the Ministers, that they shall kéepe euerie one a booke conteyning the names of all such as are méete to receiue the Communion in euery family within their seuerall Parishes, that thereby they may be able to deliuer a true note to the Churchwardens, of the names of all those which shall not receiue the holy Communion thrise in the yeare, and especially at the time of Easter forance, as is by authoritie required. And for the better obseruation

hereof,

hereof, they ſhall giue publikely warning in the Church, that all the Pariſhioners do giue ſufficient knowledge before time of their comming to the Communion, and ſhall not admit any thereunto, which haue not giuen ſuch ſufficient notice of their comming.

3 It is enioyned that the Miniſters ſhall performe theſe offices, both with the ſuſpended and excommunicated, firſt priuately, and after in the preſence of one of the two Churchwardens, if his former labour take not effect, that both the diligence of the Miniſter may the better appeare, and the parties wilfull diſobedience be more ſufficiently teſtified, when they ſhall be iuſtly puuniſhed by his Maieſties high Commiſſioners.

4 It is enioyned the ſaid Miniſters, that for their better proceeding in the premiſes, they ſhall keepe a note in writing of the names of ſuch perſons as ſhall be excommunicated, and ſhall wilfully ſo continue, and the ſame note they ſhall publikely read in the Church the firſt Sabbaoth day euery moneth, about the midſt of Morning prayer, vt magis pudeſiant, with admonition to the Churchwardens, that they then remoue ſuch perſons out of the Church.

FINIS.